

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1940.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the second annual report on the health of Corby for 1940.

As instructed in Ministry of Health circular 2067 the report is abridged and confined to essential matters only. A full report will be made covering the war period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year. In spite of the many extra duties imposed on the staff by war conditions I am pleased to report that the health and sanitary conditions of the District have maintained peace time standards.

Dr. Thomas O. Garland, your former Medical Officer of Health resigned during the year and I commenced duty on December 1st.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and help. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Council staff for the kind help I received on taking up the appointment.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is approximately 2835 acres.

Population. The Registrar General's estimate of population is 11,100.

Inhabited Houses. At December 31st, 1940, there were, according to the rate books, 2720 occupied houses.

Rateable Value. The rateable value is estimated to be £60,019 and a penny rate is estimated to produce £237.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate.	306	150	156
Illegitimate.	11	9	2
Totals.	317	159	158

Birth-rate per thousand resident population 28.55

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate.	12	7	5
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Totals.	12	7	5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 36.47

<u>DEATHS.</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
	74	40	34

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population. Crude rate 6.66
Adjusted rate 11.65

The adjusted death-rate is obtained by multiplying the crude death-rate by 1.75 which it is assumed would be the rate if the age and sex constitution were distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil.
Deaths from Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Deaths from other maternal causes	2

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births. 6.08

Death-rate of Infants under one year.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate.	19	13	6
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Totals.	19	13	6

Rate per thousand live births. ALL INFANTS. 59.93
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live legitimate births. 62.09
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births. 0.00

England and Wales, all infants. 55

Deaths from Measles (all ages).	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years).	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer.	10
Deaths from Heart Disease and other circulatory causes.	18
Deaths from suicide.	Nil.

The highest deaths were due to Heart Disease and other circulatory causes.

Eleven deaths of infants under one year were due to congenital debility, malformation and premature birth. Six deaths were due to broncho pneumonia.

It is useful to compare the statistics of the Corby Urban District with that of England and Wales as a whole, and also that of 148 smaller towns (population 25,000 to 50,000):-

	England & Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Corby.
Death-rate.	14.3	12.8	11.65 (Adjusted death-rate).
Birth-rate.	14.6	15.7	28.55
Deaths under one year of age.	55	54	59.93

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

STAFF: Medical Officer of Health.
J. T. MURPHY; M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.
C. E. H. MARSDEN, M.S.I.A. (Meat and Foods)

Clerk.
A. H. HALSEY.

The general provision of health services is similar to 1939.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (1) Water. Consumption rose during 1940 to an average of 297,000 gallons per day compared with 279,000 per day the previous year. The yield of the wells was insufficient to meet the increased demand and in June a supplementary supply was obtained by syphoning water into the Little Oakley well from the adjoining spring. Bacteriological examination revealed this water as being not very satisfactory, but the water was made safe for drinking by chlorination. This supply was used during the months from June to October. Early in August the quantity of water obtainable fell short of the demand and it was necessary to restrict the consumption by turning off the supply in part of the district from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. each day from the 9th August to the 7th November inclusive.
Samples were sent monthly for examination and the water from both wells was consistently satisfactory.

(11) Drainage and Sewerage. No material change.

2. Rivers and Streams. No change.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation. One pail closet was abolished and replaced by a water closet.

(11) Public Cleansing. No change.

(111) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. Work has proceeded as circumstances will permit.

(1V) Shops and Offices. One hundred and ninety-eight visits were made to shops during the year. Seventeen contraventions were found and remedied.

(V) Camping Sites. Two visits were made to camping sites. No licences were issued during the year.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

As a matter of routine, inspections were made throughout the year, but in no instance was it found necessary to institute proceedings.

SECTION D. Housing.

It is regretted that, owing to the abnormal conditions that at present exist, overcrowding has tended to increase although every effort has been made towards abatement.

Housing Statistics, 1940.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

- (3) By other bodies or persons.....2
(4) By Public Utility Services.....-

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number inspected.....136
(b) Number of inspections made.....188

2. (a) Inspected under Housing Acts.....3
(b) Number of inspections made.....6
3. Number found unfit.....Nil.
4. Number found to be not in all
respects fit.....54
5. Number of houses rendered fit.....52
6. Action under Statutory Powers.....Nil.

Housing Act, 1936 Part 1V - Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year...92
Number of families dwelling therein.....98
Number of persons " "809
- (b) Number of new cases found.....6
- (c) Number of cases relieved.....30

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. No change from 1939.

Thirty-seven samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the County Laboratory for analysis:-

	<u>Good.</u>	<u>Moderate.</u>	<u>Bad.</u>
Pasteurised.	7	-	-
Accredited.	1	1	-
Ordinary.	12	4	12
Totals.	20	5	12

Meat and Other Foods.

The usual routine inspections were made throughout the year, though no slaughtering is carried out in Corby. Premises were found generally to be well kept. Further details are given in the appendix.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

The infectious diseases were as follows:-

Paratyphoid B.....	21
Scarlet Fever.....	8
Diphtheria.....	9
Erysipelas.....	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	8
Dysentery.....	6
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1
Whooping Cough.....	7
Measles.....	66

Paratyphoid - An outbreak took place in the District during the summer. The cause was traced and energetic measures were taken to control it. Nineteen patients were removed to hospital and all cases recovered.

Diphtheria - All cases were removed to hospital. There were four deaths; three of the deaths were under 6 years of age. An Immunisation Campaign was begun in December, 1940.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever - All patients were removed to hospital. There were three deaths.

Scarlet Fever - Seven patients were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Dysentery - The patients were removed to hospital and all recovered.

Tuberculosis.

Nine cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, three males and six females, and two male non-pulmonary cases were notified during the year. There were six deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis; one male and five females.

The following figures show the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1940:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	12	14	26
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	5	8	13
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			39
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APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR, 1940.

GENERAL (under Housing and Public Health Acts).

(a) Visits and Inspections.

Houses inspected (Public Health Acts).....	133
Houses re-inspected.....	49
Houses inspected (Housing Acts).....	3
Houses re-inspected.....	3
Houses visited re refuse accommodation.....	23
Housing Survey, Form B.....	6
Visits to overcrowded houses.....	37
Inhabited vans inspected.....	4
Nuisances investigated.....	176
Entertainment premises visited.....	1
Inspection of watercourses and ditches.....	3
Visits to swimming bath.....	1
Visits to water works.....	1
Smoke observations.....	-
Drains smoke tested.....	3
Drains water tested.....	1
Drains colour tested.....	1
Visits to work outstanding.....	45
Number of preliminary notices.....	7
Number of Statutory notices.....	-
Visits to cowsheds.....	7
Visits to piggeries.....	9
Visits to refuse tip.....	3
Visits re rat infestation.....	43
Visits to Conveniences.....	7
Miscellaneous visits.....	42
Billeting.....	184

(b) Nuisances abated and Repair Works carried out.

Choked drains cleared.....	28
Drains relaid and repaired.....	2
Inspection chambers built.....	1
Inspection covers provided.....	2
W.C.s repaired or provided.....	10
W.C. Flushing cisterns.....	8
W.C.s cleansed.....	9
Gullies repaired or provided.....	2
Wash basins provided.....	1
Waste pipes repaired or renewed.....	6
New drains laid.....	1
Water service pipes repaired.....	6
Wells repaired.....	-
Pail closets abolished.....	1
Water closets provided.....	1
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed.....	5
Dustbins provided.....	22
Roofs repaired.....	2
Dampness remedied.....	3
Overcrowding abated.....	30 cases.
Lighting and Ventilation improved.....	1
Filthy houses cleansed.....	2
Premises gassed for rats.....	11
Accumulations removed.....	5
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed.....	2
Slaughterhouses cleansed and limewashed.....	1

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

(a) Visits and Inspections.

To Meat Allocation Depot.....	22
To butchers' shops.....	162
To fish shops.....	4
To other food shops.....	31
To bakehouses.....	9
To food preparing places.....	32
To dairies.....	5
To cowsheds.....	2
To ice-cream vendors.....	7
To greengrocers.....	3

(b) Samples taken.

Tuberculin Tested milk.....	-
Accredited.....	2
Pasteurised.....	7
Ordinary milk.....	28
Ice cream.....	-

(c) Licences Granted (all supplementary).

Pasteurised.....	3
Tuberculin Tested.....	1

(d) Meat Condemned and Destroyed.

1. Meat Allocation Depot.

4 pigs' heads.....	56	lbs.
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11. Butchers' Shops.

1 beast's head.....	26	lbs.
5 beasts' livers.....	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
1 beast's pluck.....	24	lbs.
Hindquarters beef.....	90	lbs.
Top beef.....	116	lbs.
5 pigs' heads.....	66	lbs.
3 flanks pork.....	13	lbs.
Part side pork.....	40	lbs.
Bacon.....	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
1 sheep's liver.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
2 frozen lambs.....	96	lbs.
1 tin tongue.....	6	lbs.
6 doz. fish cakes.....	-	

Total. 660 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Applications for licences to slaughter animals.	6
Applications for licences to slaughter granted.	6
Amount of fees received.....	6/-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(a) Visits and Inspections.

Visits to infected houses.....	181	
Disinfection - general cases.....	51	rooms.
Disinfection - tuberculosis.....	5	"
Beds and bedding steam disinfected.....	1	
Beds and bedding destroyed.....	2	

FACTORIES.

Visits and Inspections.

Factories with mechanical power.....	12
Factories without mechanical power.....	7
Contraventions found.....	6
Contraventions remedied.....	6

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Visits and inspections.....	12
Contraventions found.....	2
Contraventions remedied.....	2

Number of licences granted

(a) Petroleum Spirit.....	6
(b) Carbide of Calcium.....	-
Amount of fees.....	£4 0. 0.

SHOPS ACT.

Visits and inspections.....	86
Contraventions found.....	21
Contraventions abated.....	19

